

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 BIB-01 DHA-02 ACDA-07 ARA-06 ORM-02 SCA-01

AID-05 EB-08 /111 W

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R 171222Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6865

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 0733

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SREF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: GERMAN VISITOR'S IMPRESSIONS

1. FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS, DR. PETER SCHOLL-LATOURE, CHIEF CORRESPONDENT OF WEST GERMAN TELEVISION, HAS BEEN VISITING PARTS OF SOUTHWEST AFRICA WITH A SMALL TEAM FILMING A DOCUMENTARY. POL COUNSELOR MET LATOUR WHEN HE FIRST ARRIVED AND AGAIN ON FEBRUARY 12 HE CAME TO PRETORIA WITH HIS CHIEF COMERAMAN, KAUFMANN, TO REVIEW HIS OBSERVATIONS WITH MUNN AND WITH FIRST SECRETARY OF ISRAELI EMBASSY, NATHAN MERON. LATOUR WAS EXTENDED A GREAT DEGREE OF COOPERATION AND SUPPORT FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN  
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GOVERNMENT AND THUS HAD ACCESS TO SOME PLACES NOT NORMALLY AVAILABLE TO US. HE IS HIGHLY RESPECTED AS AN ASTUTE POLITICAL OBSERVER.

2. TURNHALLE TALKS: LATOUR WAS DISMAYED AT THE RELATIVELY FEEBLE CAPACITY OF DELEGATES TO THE TURNHALLE. IF THE SAG HAD BEGUN A YEAR OR MORE AGO TO BUILD UP THE IMAGE AND AUTHORITY

OF SOME OF THEM, SUCH AS AFRICA, KLOPPERS, OR KAPUUO, THERE IS A CHANCE THEY MIGHT HAVE CREATED SOME VIABLE POLITICAL MACHINE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO SWAPO. ON THIS ISSUE SAG "SEEMS TO BE COMPLETELY STUPID" SAID LATOUR AND AS A CONSEQUENCE TURNHALLE HAS NO CREDIBILITY. IF VERKRAMPTE WHITES HAVE THEIR WAY, THEY WILL MANUEVER THE TURNALLE TO A STALEMATE IN WHICH THE SAG WILL IMPOSE A CONSTITUTION CONSISTENT WITH ITS NORMAL RACIST POLICIES. THE GREAT BULK OF SAG CIVIL SERVANTS LIVING IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA SEEM TO BE DETERMINED TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN EVEN THOUGH MUDGE MIGHT LIKE TO SEE IT OTHERWISE. LATOUR WAS NOT GREATLY IMPRESSED WITH ANY OF THE WHITE POLITICIANS HE MET, "SMALL-TIME BUNGLERS", EXCEPT FOR MUDGE WHOM HE THOUGHT TO BE SENSIBLE, BUT BY NO MEANS A CHARISMATIC LEADER.

3. THE GERMAN COMMUNITY: ABOUT THREE-FOURTHS OF THE APPROXIMATELY 25,000-30,000 GERMANS WANT TO STAY IN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA. THERE HAS BEEN A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN THEIR ATTITUDE IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS IN THAT THEY HAVE BECOME ALMOST ENTIRELY LIBERALS IN CONTRAST TO THEIR PREVIOUS SUPPORT OF SAG POLICIES. THEY DO NOT FEEL THAT THEY HAVE AN ADEQUATE VOICE IN WHITE POLITICS AND ARE ANNOYED AT THE FACT THAT SAG CIVIL SERVANTS CARRY MORE WEIGHT IN NATIONAL PARTY POLITICS THAN DO THEY AS PERMANENT RESIDENTS. ABOUT ONE-FOURTH OF THEM WOULD PROBABLY LEAVE FOR GERMANY IF THINGS GOT TOUGH. LATOUR SAID HE FOUND GERMAN CONSUL UWE HANSEN (WHO HAS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE) TO BE SENSIBLE AND WELL INFORMED.

4. RUACANA-CUNENE POWER PLANT: THE GERMAN TEAM WAS TAKEN BY MILITARY HELICOPTER FOR A VISIT TO RUACANA. THE SITUATION  
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THERE SEEMS PEACEFUL BUT THERE IS UNDERLYING TENSION. COMMISSIONER OF OVAMBOLAND, JANNIE DE WET, WHO SEEMS TO DO MUCH OF THE NEGOTIATING FOR SOUTH AFRICA WITH THE ANGOLANS, HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO ARRIVE AT ANY LONG-TERM AGREEMENT ON THE WATER OFFTAKE OR POWER SCHEMES. NEVERTHELESS WORK AT RUACANA IS PROGRESSING RAPIDLY WITH NO UNTOWARD INCIDENTS. THE FIRST OF THE FOUR TURBINES IS INSTALLED AND SHOULD PRODUCE POWER, APPROXIMATELY 80 MEGAWATTS, BEFORE THE END OF 1977. THE OTHER THREE WILL BE INSTALLED IN SUCCESSION. WORKMEN CROSS REGULARLY TO AND FROM THE ANGOLA SIDE. THE ONLY SIGN OF TENSION IS THAT THE ANGOLANS HAVE REMOVED THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE CUNENE IMMEDIATELY BELOW THE POWER PLANT OUTFLOW MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR PERSONNEL AT THE SITE TO SWIM IN THE LARGE POOL IN THE RIVER AT THAT POINT. THE TEAM WAS TOLD THAT WATER OFFTAKE AT CALUEQUE WAS PROCEEDING NORMALLY AT ABOUT SEVEN CUBIC METERS PER SECOND.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PRETORIA 0733

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

5. MILITARY: THE TEAM PASSED THROUGH THE MAIN BASE CAMP AT  
ONDANGWA SEVERAL TIMES IN THE COURSE OF BEING GIVEN HELI-  
COPTER TRANSPORT. LATOUR SAID THAT THERE WERE SUBSTANTIALLY  
MORE HOUSING AND VEHICLE PARKING FACILITIES AT THE BASE THAN  
ARE PRESENTLY BEING USED. HE LEARNED THAT MANY OF THE SUPPORT  
FACILITIES HAVE BEEN MOVED FORWARD TO GROOTFONTEIN, WHICH HE  
DID NOT VISIT. THE MILITARY SAY THEY ARE IN FULL CONTROL OF  
THE SITUATION EXCEPT FOR RELATIVELY SMALL SCALE GUERRILLA  
INCURSIONS. THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SWAPO IS CAPABLE OF  
MOUNTING A MAJOR THRUST. LATOUR WAS NOT IMPRESSED AT ALL WITH  
THE CASUALNESS OF THE AVERAGE SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZEN SOLDIER  
WHO SEEMED YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED, BUT THEY SERVE UNDER A  
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TOUGH AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED CADRE OF REGULARS. HE HAD THE  
IMPRESSION THAT THE TOTAL SOUTH AFRICAN FORCE DEPLOYED NORTH

OF WINDHOEK WAS PROBABLY AROUND 7,000.

6. SWAPO: LATOUR HAD TALKED WITH TJONGARERO BUT WAS NOT IMPRESSED. HE THOUGHT SWAPO WAS PROBABLY MUCH WEAKER INTERNALLY THAN IT PROFESSED. HOWEVER, FROM HIS CONTACTS WITH SWAPO IN EUROPE, AS WELL AS IMPRESSIONS ON HIS CURRENT TRIP, LATOUR THOUGHT SWAPO FELT CONFIDENT THAT THE RECOGNITION ACCORDED SWAPO BY THE UNITED NATIONS, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT, PLUS CUBAN/SOVIET ASSISTANCE, WAS SUFFICIENT TO SEE SWAPO ULTIMATELY VICTORIOUS. LATOUR WAS NOT ABLE TO ESTIMATE SWAPO'S RELATIVE STRENGTH IN OVAMBOLAND.

7. REFUGEES: FIGHTING WITH UNITA? LATOUR WAS ALSO ACTING AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GERMAN RED CROSS AND HAD BEEN ASKED TO REPORT TO THE RED CROSS ON THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. HE VISITED ONE SMALL CAMP NEAR THE MAIN HIGHWAY LEADING NORTH FROM OSHAKATI INTO ANGOLA AND WAS TOLD THAT ONLY ABOUT 1,000 PERSONS REMAINED THERE OF THE 4,000-5,000 WHO HAD ARRIVED AT THAT PARTICULAR POINT SOME MONTHS AGO. SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY SAID THERE WERE STILL "SEVERAL THOUSAND" ANGOLAN BLACK REFUGEES IN THE CAPRIVI STRIP PRINCIPALLY NEAR RUNDU. FROM REMARKS MADE BY THE MILITARY, LATOUR GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO SUPPORT WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHILE THE MEN WERE ASSIGNED TO UNITA COMBAT GROUPS. REMARKS BY SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY SEEMED TO INDICATE ENERGETIC AND EXTENSIVE SUPPORT IN TERMS OF TRAINING AND MATERIAL FOR UNITA FORCES IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA.

8. CHURCH GROUPS: LATOUR WAS IMPRESSED WITH LUTHERAN PRESIDENT DE VRIES' KNOWLEDGE OF POLITICAL ISSUES AND IN PARTICULAR SWAPO INTERESTS, EVEN THOUGH HE GOT LITTLE OF REAL SUBSTANCE FROM DE VRIES. CATHOLIC BISHOP KOPPMAN HAD ON HIS STAFF "SOME REALLY FIERY RADICALS WORKING FOR SWAPO" WHOM LATOUR DID NOT IDENTIFY. HE MENTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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WHEN SWA ADMINISTRATION HAD RECENTLY CUT OFF ITS SUBSIDY TO CATHOLIC CHURCH SCHOOLS BECAUSE THEY HAD CHOSEN TO GO MULTI-RACIAL, KOPPMAN HAD TELEPHONED GERMANY AND HAD RECEIVED AN IMMEDIATE PLEDGE TO COVER ANY SHORTFALL WHICH, LATOUR NOTED, COULD AMOUNT TO ABOUT \$30,000 PER YEAR.

9. LATOUR HAS LEFT SOUTH AFRICA BUT KAUFMAN WILL STAY ON FOR SOME WEEKS DOING ADDITIONAL FILMING. LATOUR MAY RETURN IN ABOUT A MONTH TO REVIEW WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AND ADD A FEW FINAL TOUCHES TO WHAT HE HOPES WILL BE A 45-MINUTE TO ONE HOUR DOCUMENTARY.  
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## Message Attributes

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